

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/597,528	PITTARD ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Fekadeselassie Girma	2612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 31 December 2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>26 February 2010</u> . 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
|--|---|

/Fekadeselassie Girma/
Examiner, Art Unit 2612

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DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claim 1-20 are allowed in view of Examiner's Amendment presented below.

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David Foster on 26 February 2010.

In the claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A control system comprising:

a transmitter for transmitting command signals to a media control system that executes machine instructions associated with media content, wherein the machine instructions can be selectively associated with the command signals, and wherein the media content stored on a removable disc includes at least one of a graphic, a shape, a color, text, and audio data;

a direct-select key in communication with the transmitter and having a property that is replicated in an icon on a display of the media control system, wherein the property associates the direct-select key with the icon on the display such that activation of the direct-select key causes the transmitter to transmit a first command signal to instruct the media control system to initiate an operation that is selectively associated with the icon, and wherein the icon is provided

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by the media content stored on a removable disc; and

a navigation key in communication with the transmitter, activation of the navigation key causing the transmitter to transmit a second command signal to instruct the media control system to perform a navigation operation that is defined by the machine instructions such that the navigation operation will be the same for any of a plurality of media control systems which access the machine instructions.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling operations associated with electronic media content stored on a removable disc comprising:

providing a control device that communicates with a media content access device, wherein the control device includes:

a direct-select key associated with a first command signal that can be communicated from the control device to the media content access device upon activation of the direct-select key and wherein the first command signal corresponds to a non-reserved first programmable command signal recognized by the media content access device; and

a navigation key associated with a second command signal that can be communicated from the control device to the media content access device upon activation of the navigation key and wherein the second command signal corresponds to a non-reserved second programmable command signal recognized by the media content access device;

displaying an icon provided by the electronic media content stored on a removable disc that shares a property of the direct-select key and that is dynamically associated with an operation of the media content access device;

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performing a direct-selection operation with the media content access device if the first command signal is detected by the media content access device as a result of activation of the direct-select key on the remote control device; and

performing a navigation operation with the media content access device to navigate to a desired portion of the electronic media content if the second command signal is detected by the media content access device as a result of activation of the navigation key on the remote control device, wherein the electronic media content stored on a removable disc includes at least one of a graphic, a shape, a color, text, and audio data.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest a combination of an interactive media control system, and more specifically to a simplified control system that associates a limited set of keys with command signals to enable dynamic interaction with multi-media content through consistent and cursor-less navigation. A device transmitting command signals to a media control system that executes machine instructions associated with media content stored on a removable disc, wherein the machine instructions can be selectively associated with the command signals. A direct-select key in communication with the transmitter and having a property that is replicated in an icon on a display of the media control system, wherein the property associates the direct-select key with the icon on the display such that activation of the direct-select key causes the transmitter to transmit a first command signal to instruct the media control system to initiate an operation that

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is selectively associated with the icon; and a navigation key in communication with the transmitter, activation of the navigation key causing the transmitter to transmit a second command signal to instruct the media control system to perform a navigation operation that is defined by the machine instructions such that the navigation operation will be the same for any of a plurality of media control systems which access the machine instructions. This along with the rest of the claimed limitations is not shown by the prior art.

Citation of Other Prior Arts

4. The prior art made a record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Chuey discloses in Programmable appliance remote control (US 2005/0024229), Masters discloses in Remote control with local, screen-guided setup (US 2005/0216843), Aratani discloses in Control apparatus and control method (US 2002/0089427), Yamamoto discloses in Communication system, communication apparatus, and communication method (US 7432909), Fujita discloses in Distribution system and method for menu-driven user interface (US 5500794).

Conclusion

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fekadeselassie Girma whose telephone number is (571) 270-

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5886. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8:30-5:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel J. Wu can be reached on 571-272-2964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free)? If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/FG/

/Daniel Wu/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2612